

The President. It is inappropriate for me to express a firm opinion about the questions you ask since the Italian people will have to resolve that for themselves, just as the Japanese people will have to resolve their questions of political reform. But I would make two observations.

First is that the differences in economy and culture between the north and the south in your country have some analogy in our country. That is, we have some places in our country that are far wealthier than others. We have places in our country that are far different culturally than others. And that is a continuing challenge. My own view is that we're much better facing those things together and trying to create a community of interest than we would be if we were to split up. I realize the challenge it presents to Italy; I spent time in southern Italy; I spent time in northern Italy. I'm well aware of the fact that some parts of northern Italy achieve per capita incomes higher than the Federal Republic of Germany before the merger of West and East Germany. But I think that these are the kinds of challenges that would have to be faced, regardless, and the heritage of Italy as a united country is a very old one indeed.

With regard to the electoral system, at various times the people in democracies, when times are tough, tire of the system they have. In our country, for example, we had a third party candidate get the highest percentage of the vote that a third party candidate has gotten since the beginning of this century.

On the other hand, I believe that the two-party system and the fact that we have roughly centrist parties with majority rule, right of center, left of center a little bit, but roughly centrist parties, has stabilized our political system over the years. Sometimes, people have been disappointed that there weren't clear-cut differences and ideas throughout American history in the parties, and then sometimes there are. But if you have a majority rule system, you tend to have more compromise and more stability. Sometimes people grow tired of it, and they look for other options. It has happened to us three or four times in our history where a new party has come up, and one of our existing parties has disappeared over 217 years. But it has served

us well, I believe, on balance. Nearly any student of American history would say that we have been served well by this system. Whether it will work in Italy is a decision you'll have to make.

Prime Minister Ciampi. First of all, I would like to add a few points, Mr. President, and they will be very brief and very clear. First of all, no new party in Italy or no party at all questions the unity of Italy. The second point is that the Italian Parliament is currently studying electoral reform to solve the institutional problems of Italy. Second of all, the Italian Government—and I would hope that you would read the relative documentation—is fully supporting the electoral reform and is making it the number one priority.

The President. Thank you very much.

Q. Progress on trade talks?

The President. You know, I was out at the university, and then I came directly back here to meet with the Prime Minister. So I've received no report. I can't say.

NOTE: The President's 20th news conference began at 12 noon in the Wakakusa Room at the Okura Hotel. Prime Minister Ciampi spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to the Opening Session of the Economic Summit in Tokyo

July 7, 1993

Trade Talks

Q. Mr. President, what do you hope to accomplish at this first summit meeting?

The President. My spokesperson over there, she has my proxy. [Laughter]

Well, we're off to a good start. We hope to get the Uruguay round going again, and we have very encouraging news on that. We hope we can promote growth in our economies and jobs for our people, all of us do. And I think we will do what we can to support reform in Russia. So there are lots of things—

Q. Do you think there will be success on the Uruguay round, sir?

The President. I certainly hope so. I think there will be an announcement on that later today.

Prime Minister Miyazawa. —made great headway.

Q. Great headway, did you say, Mr. Prime Minister?

Prime Minister Miyazawa. Yes.

The President. Our people worked almost all night last night. A great advantage for the Americans, since they couldn't sleep anyway. [Laughter]

[At this point, one group of reporters left the room and another group entered.]

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, do you have any message—world community as you lead this meeting?

Prime Minister Miyazawa. —contribute to the prosperity—of the whole world.

[At this point, one group of reporters left the room and another group entered.]

Q. Is there progress on the Japanese trade talks, Mr. President?

The President. They're working hard. I think the big news today will be on the manufacturing goods in the GATT round, and we'll have an announcement about that later today. It will be a big deal for Americans, lots of jobs involved if it works. And we're hopeful.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 2:15 p.m. at the Akasaka Palace. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this news conference.

Remarks on the Market Access Agreement and an Exchange With Reporters in Tokyo

July 7, 1993

The President. Ladies and gentlemen, I want to read a statement about the market access agreement that was reached. Ambassador Kantor, I know, has already been down here answering your questions, and Secretary Christopher and Secretary Bentsen are here.

I want to try to explain why I can't take a broad range of questions on the G-7 summit. Under the rules of the summit, we can't discuss what's going on while it's going on

unless we get an exemption. Since we've actually made an agreement on this, I can make the following statement.

The breakthrough achieved today in the international trade talks is good news for America and good news for the world. It means more jobs and higher incomes for our people. While there are difficult negotiations ahead, today's agreement on manufactured goods breaks the logjam in the Uruguay round. For years, talks in that round have languished. G-7 leaders have emerged from these summits pledging renewed commitment to complete the round. Their pledges have gone unfulfilled. But this year, we have recaptured the momentum.

If we can complete the Uruguay round by the end of this year, and I believe we can now, then this agreement will bring the largest tariff reductions ever. It will lower duties on 18 categories of manufactured goods from paper to chemicals to electronics. It eliminates tariffs entirely, that is, it creates global free trade for eight major sectors including farm implements, steels, and pharmaceuticals. This agreement means new jobs and new growth in the United States and in other nations. It proves that government can be a productive partner with business, helping to open markets and create jobs.

Special praise is due to the European Community, to Canada, and to Japan, who joined with us in this effort; to our negotiator, Ambassador Mickey Kantor; and to the United States Congress which voted last week to renew my fast track authority to complete this round.

With today's accord, I am more determined than ever to press ahead with the Uruguay round by the end of this year. This really can mean an enormous number of jobs to the American people. When we came here, frankly, we did not know whether we could get an agreement on market access for manufactured goods. It is a very, very good sign that the agreement was achieved not only because of the jobs that this holds for Americans but because of the promise it holds to actually complete the Uruguay round.